

PLURALITY OF WIVES AMONGST MORMONS.

To the EDITOR of the MANX SUN.

SIR,—In my Lectures on the “Principles and Practices of Mormons,”* I stated that polygamy was commonly *practised* by Mormons in Deseret, but that heretofore they had denied holding the *principle*, and that the “Book of Doctrine and Covenants” had reprobated the practice. I gave reasons, however, for believing that the Mormons (page 64) were trying to “sap the chastity and purity of our houses and of our feelings” by their publications, “and thus to *prepare the way* for effecting in England, what has long since been done in America—the destroying of all domestic peace and purity.”

Already this system of iniquity has developed itself, and I would beg, through the medium of your valuable paper, to make known the *now avowed principles* of the body, that none may henceforth leave our Island for the Great Salt Lake under a misapprehension as to the principles and practices of that shockingly corrupt and sensual body—and, in particular, that our Manx females may have their eyes opened.

A supplement to the *Millennial Star*, vol. xv., 1853, contains the following statement of Professor Orson Pratt, speaking at the Great Salt Lake, page 18:—“It is well known to the congregation before me that the Latter-day Saints have embraced the doctrine of a plurality of wives as a part of their religious faith. It is not, as many have supposed, a doctrine embraced by them to gratify the carnal lusts and feelings of man; that is not the object of the doctrine!” !!

Page 23, the same speaker says:—“It (*i.e.* the multiplying of his seed) would have been rather a slow process, if Abraham had been confined to one wife, like some of those narrow, contracted notions of modern Christianity.”

Page 31, Brigham Young says:—The world have known, long ago, even in brother Joseph’s days, that *he had more wives than one.*”

This supplement contains at page 32, the “REVELATION (!) given to Joseph Smith, Nauvoo, July 12, 1843.”

Brigham Young says, page 31:—This revelation has been in my possession many years; and who has known it? None but those who should know it. I keep a patent lock on my desk, and there does not anything leak out that should not.”

Here is then an admission that for nearly ten years there has existed a revelation on the subject, and yet they have denied the existence of the principle or the practice!! Who can believe men who can act so?

This extract alone I need to give from the Revelation, page 35:—“But again, as pertaining to the law of the Priesthood, if any man espouse a virgin, and desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent; and if he espouse the second, and they are virgins, and have vowed to no other man, THEN IS HE JUSTIFIED; HE CANNOT COMMIT ADULTERY, for they are given unto him; for he cannot commit adultery with that that belongeth unto him and to none else; and IF HE HAVE TEN VIRGINS GIVEN UNTO HIM by this law he cannot commit adultery, for they belong unto him, and they are given unto him; therefore is he justified.”

In page 62, it is said:—“The doctrine and practice of polygamy, or plurality of wives, treated of in the foregoing pages, comes in contact with the traditions of Christendom, and will no doubt be regarded by the religious world as but an ill disguised attempt to screen, under the sanction of legality and religious duty, the most unbridled and abominable licentiousness.”

This is the view, which we hope every reader will take of the subject. If any be in doubt about the mind and will of God, he may find it in Gen. ii. 24; Mat. xix. 5-9; Mark x. 6-9; I Cor. vi. 16; I Tim. iii. 2.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. H. GRAY.

Douglas, Feb. 10, 1853.

* Douglas: M. P. BACKWELL.—Liverpool: J. HOWELL.—London: JAMES NISBET & Co.; WERTHEIM & MACINTOSH.

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